PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No.: APT-0006 (85176-0006)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re Patent Application of:

Takaaki HIRAI et al.

Confirmation No.: 6366

Application No.: 09/856,468

Art Unit: 1771

Filed: June 7, 2001

Examiner: Victor S. Chang

For: PRE-EXPANDED PARTICLES OF CRYSTALLINE

AROMATIC POLYESTER-BASED RESIN, AND IN MOLD EXPANDED PRODUCT AND EXPANDED

LAMINATE USING THE SAME

OK to enter Vsc 12/16/03

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)

MS AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated September 23, 2003 (Paper No. 915), finally rejecting claims 1 and 3-20, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.